

HB330 HD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.
Report Title:	Suicide Early Intervention; Prevention; Education; Department of Health; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties. (HB330 HD1)
Companion:	SB226
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	NAKAMURA, CREAGAN, LOWEN, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, ONISHI, SAN BUENAVENTURA, TARNAS, TODD, TOKIOKA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/13/2019

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0330, HD1 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention,
and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties. (HB330 HD1)

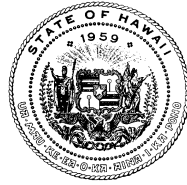
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 0330, HD1, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOE approved budget.

The Department recognizes a need for increased interventions to address the higher rates of suicide among youth on the Neighbor Islands in comparison to Honolulu County. This bill would help to address and prevent youth suicide in Kauai and Hawaii Counties. In alignment with the Department of Health's requested amendment, the Department similarly requests that Maui County also be included in this bill to sustain and fully implement plans for youth suicide prevention projects in that county.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 0330, HD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 330 H.D. 1
RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: 03/13/2019 Room Number: 229

Fiscal Implications: H.B. 330 H.D. 1 requests funding for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education programs in the County of Kauai and the County of Hawaii. The Department of Health defers to the priorities set forth in the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget request.

Department Testimony: The Department of Health supports H.B. 330 H.D. 1 as long as it does not negatively impact the priorities set forth in the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget request.

Between 2013 - 2017, there were 153 suicides among all residents aged 15 to 24 years, making suicide the leading cause of injury related deaths for this age group. For every child age 15 to 24 who dies from suicide in Hawaii, there are an estimated 57 more youth per year who are hospitalized, and another 181 youth per year who are treated in emergency departments (ED) for nonfatal self-inflicted injury.

Youth suicide rates are significantly higher for all Neighbor Islands in comparison to the City and County of Honolulu. From 2012 to 2016, the overall age adjusted rate for youth suicide on Oahu was 66 suicides per 100,000. In Kauai County, the rate was 92 per 100,000, in Hawaii County 117 per 100,000, and in Maui County 86 per 100,000.

Offered Amendments: Given the higher rates of youth suicide in the Neighbor Island counties of Kauai, Hawaii, and Maui, the DOH respectfully recommends consideration of need for youth suicide prevention and early intervention resources for all three counties. This would include continuation of FY 18 resources (\$25,000) for Maui County.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HB330 HD1
RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

March 13, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to **COMMENT** on HB330 HD1, which seeks to support early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives addressing youth suicide in Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi, and Maui counties.

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies that can reduce health inequities faced by Native Hawaiians. Most recently, OHA spearheaded the State effort to codify “social determinants of health” through Act 155 (Reg. Sess. 2014) and require state agencies to take a holistic and systemic approach to addressing health disparities seen in Native Hawaiian and other communities. Therefore, OHA appreciates the intent of this measure to address the harms and health issues that drive young people, including a disproportionate number of young Native Hawaiians, to suicide and suicide attempts.

Recent data has raised significant concerns about the impacts of suicide and attempted suicide on the Native Hawaiian community. Alarming, **Native Hawaiian youth are substantially more likely to ideate and attempt suicide** than their peers.¹ 24.1% of Native Hawaiian females in public high schools have seriously considered attempting suicide compared to 18.7% of non-Hawaiian females.² Statewide, the percentage of Native Hawaiian males in the 10th grade who had previously attempted suicide (11%) was more than double that of their non-Hawaiian peers (5.2%).³ Tragically, suicide and suicide attempts may not just impact the individuals involved, but carry long-lasting consequences for families and the broader community as well.

Suicide and suicide attempt rates vary by geographic area, with neighbor island and rural communities seeing higher rates than Oʻahu and urban areas. OHA research confirms higher rates of suicide and suicide attempts by Native Hawaiian youth in Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi, and Maui counties in particular. Therefore, OHA believes that this measure’s targeted focus of resources toward those communities whose youth demonstrate the greatest need for support is appropriate.

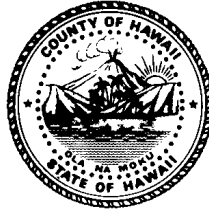
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING 19-25 (2018).

² *Id.* at 19-20.

³ *Id.* at 22.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 11, 2019

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 330, HD1 Relating to Suicide Prevention

HB 330, HD1 sent me to Google to better understand the need for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education programs. The statistics are enough to explain the importance of this bill.

Suicide deaths in Hawai'i County, according to our Hawai'i State Department of Health, average 20.4 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of about 13 deaths per 100,000. When it comes to youth age 15-19, the number is even higher—26.4 per 100,000; and for young adults aged 20-24, higher still—37.9 per 100,000.

My understanding is that statistics for Kauai and Maui are similarly disturbing.

Every one of these deaths is preventable, and if we have the expertise to offer programs that can reach these young people and suggest different paths forward for them, it seems we owe it to them, and to their families, friends, and loved ones, to make the effort. In fact, we owe it to ourselves as a just and caring society.

I hope you will act favorably on HB 330, HD1. I also note that the Senate companion bill, SB 226, was amended in the Senate to include Maui in addition to Hawai'i County and Kauai, and we think that is certainly appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR



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Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

RE: HB 330, HD1 - RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 330, HD1, with a suggested amendment**, relating to suicide prevention. This measure would appropriate funds to support youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties. **We suggest an amendment to expand this program funding to Maui County as well, as their suicide rate is also high.**

Suicide is the second leading cause of death nationwide for youth age 15-24; in Hawaii, the data on youth suicide attempts is especially concerning. According to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 10% of high school students in Hawaii reported attempting suicide in the previous year compared to 7% nationwide. To make matters worse, our neighbor island youth are especially at risk of attempting suicide; the 2017 YRBS found that 12% of youth in Hawaii County and 11% of youth in Maui County have attempted suicide.

Suicide rates vary by area, with neighbor island and rural communities seeing higher rates than urban areas. For the period from 2013 to 2015, the statewide suicide rate was 12.9 deaths for every one hundred thousand individuals (not only youth). For the same time period, for every one hundred thousand people, the counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i had 20.4, 15.9, and 14.6 deaths, respectively. The city and county of Honolulu's suicide rate, at 10.3 deaths for every one hundred thousand people, was slightly lower than the state average.

To address the mental health crisis, especially among our youth, we must act now to implement best-practice suicide prevention programs in our schools; these programs should be rolled out in our neighbor island schools first considering the high rate of suicide attempts among youth in these communities.

To reduce the risk of suicide among Hawaii's youth, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HB 330, HD1.

HB-330-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:20:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Bergan	Testifying for Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the co-chair of the Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force and I was just alerted that this bill passed the Finance Committee without including Maui County in the bill. I can tell you that this will put at risk hundreds of youth in Maui County especially in the rural areas of Hane, Molokai and Lanai where the suicide risks and rates are the highest per capita.

So far this year a good portion of the funds we were granted this year have and will be spent on educating youth in Suicide prevention. I am schedule to train in Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention in both Lanai and Hana in April and I just trained 200 youth in Molokai. I cannot express how grateful they were to have us there. We are saving lives!

Without these critical funds we likely can't afford to visit these areas again next year.

Therefore, I do support this bill but I humbly urge you to reinstate the Maui funds. Without including Maui, it would be a travesty for those at high risk

Mahalo,

Danielle M. Bergan

Co-Chair

Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force.



Wednesday, March 13, 2019

House Bill 330 HD1

Testifying in Support, with amendments

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii (DPH) **supports HB 330 HD1 Relating to Suicide Prevention**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Health for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

The DPH recommends amending the bill be amended to include Maui county.

According to hawaiihealthmatters.org¹, in 2017 Kauai county had 3.4 percent, Hawaii county had 3.5 percent, and Maui County had 3.1 percent of its teens attempt suicide.

Relative to Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii Island, and Maui have been afforded grossly inadequate resources to treat minors experiencing mental health issues, with no residential facilities available that accept MedQuest. This is especially troubling when we know the rate of suicide is much greater in these two counties. To the extent this disproportionate rate is due to an imbalance in funding, it is imperative for the Legislature to take immediate action. It is not only a matter of equity or fairness, it is a matter life and death.

On June 8, 2018, in a Hawaii News Now story², Trisha Kajimura, Mental Health America of Hawai'i Executive Director, said this, about the suicide statistics in Hawaii. "What's also known about neighbor islands is the difficulty in accessing mental health care, as well as other types of medical care. So, when you put those things together, it can be difficult to find help even when you want it."

For years, behavioral health concerns have been stigmatized, which forces these conversations into the shadows. The shadows are where hopelessness blooms and death results.

Creating access for behavioral health services to every person living in Hawaii is a priority for the DPH.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

1. <http://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2500&localeId=601>
2. <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/38377686/cdc-suicide-rates-in-hawaii-on-the-rise/>

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 330 HD1 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hearing: March 13, 2019, 9:00 am, CR 229

Thank you for hearing **House Bill 330 HD1**, which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui, Kauai and Hawai'i counties.

Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH) is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 77 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. We support youth mental health in Hawaii through our Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention Program and through our advocacy work. One of our signature services is a training for middle and high school age youth on Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention that we developed here in Hawaii called "Ho'olohe Pono." This training has been evaluated to show that over 80% of participants increase their knowledge of bullying, suicide, helpful resources, and how they can assist someone in need.

In Hawai'i, we unfortunately have very high rates of suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal ideation amongst various age groups. Shockingly, our state's most recent Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (part of a national survey) results show that 23.2% of middle age youth in Hawaii self-report suicidal ideation, 16.3% has made a suicide plan, and 12.4% have made a suicide attempt.¹ Suicide-related behavior has a serious and profound impact on communities that can be reduced with education, awareness, and appropriate mental health treatment services.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 330 HD1**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, Hawaii, 2017

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 330, HD1
Relating to Suicide Prevention**

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of HB 330, HD1 which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

A teen in Hawai'i is nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide as a teen elsewhere in the United States, with 2,280 reporting having attempted suicide here in 2007, according to a Centers for Disease Control survey in Hawaii's schools. This data has been confirmed by the Department of Health which found that Hawai'i has the highest attempted suicide rate in the country for youth ages 10 to 24. For every suicide death in the islands, there are 25 attempted suicides. The neighbor islands have a higher suicide attempt rate among the youth than Oahu. While suicide or suicide attempt is troubling at any age, youth suicide has unique challenges.

Funding for youth-focused outreach programs through early intervention, prevention, and education would bring community awareness to the problem of youth suicide. This effort would stem the tide of the alarming frequency of youth suicide attempts and help our youths in leading less troubled lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Submitted: March 8, 2019

HEARING: March 13, 2018 9:00 a.m. in room #229

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Strong Support for HB 330 HD1 to Suicide Prevention**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening life, family and religious freedom in Hawaii. We support this bill that provides necessary funding for youth suicide early prevention, intervention and education in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

We are committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, and everything that comes between. Many people in our community are concerned about suicide, because it affects the vulnerable people in our community, especially our youth and elderly. In fact, several of our pastors have dealt with this very issue just within the past few months.

In Hawaii, suicide was the most common cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2010 and 2014, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries and experts point out that one person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. This is heartbreaking and something we absolutely need to change!

Experts rightly point out that suicidal behaviors, for people of any age, are usually rooted in many different factors, with mental health issues playing an important role in the overall mix. It is a "perfect storm" of emotional issues and the only way to begin making a difference, is by identifying and treating each person. And the good news, is that it is fixable by awareness and treatment.

If this bill is passed with the appropriate funds necessary, Kauai and Hawaii County youth will have resources that may very well save their life. Protecting these precious lives are an outcome that is one upon which everyone in the community will agree. Funding for these types of services, we hope, will go a long way towards helping Hawaii's keiki thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.



TO: Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: March 13, 2019; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 229

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 330 HD1– RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

We ask you to support HB 330 which appropriates money for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties. We support this bill which will appropriate funding to the Department of Health to support our youth particularly on Kauai and Hawaii Island, which have been hardest hit by natural disasters during 2018. As a provider of services on both Kauai and Hawaii Island, we saw firsthand how lives were upended during the extreme flooding and lava disasters causing stress and trauma for many local residents.

There is a growing need to address our youth's social, emotional and mental health needs.

- Suicide awareness and prevention was a top priority voiced by Hawaii's youth at the 2018 Hawaii Children's and Youth Summit held at the Capitol.
- Suicide rates in Hawaii have increased nearly 20% since 1999 with an annual average of about 170 deaths.
- In Hawaii, suicide (as well as non-fatal injury) rates tend to be higher on neighbor islands where there is greater difficulty in accessing mental health or other medical care.
- Nationally, nearly 45,000 lives were lost to suicide in 2016 according to CDC.

It is imperative that we put in place preventative measures that connect youth with resources BEFORE it's too late. Suicide intervention, prevention and education initiatives for youth can be life saving. It also raises the awareness of caring for one's mental health and can help to reduce the negative stigma associated with mental health related issues. These initiatives can allow for open conversations about the importance of one's whole health, create safe opportunities for youth to reach out for help when they need and enable the community to be equipped with connecting our youth to appropriate supportive resources.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 330 HD1**. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

HB-330-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:53:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Support	No

Comments:

HB-330-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:12:27 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanda Lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Multiple studies have shown that LGBT teens, especially those that are transgender or otherwise gender variant, are at significantly increased risk of suicide attempt and completed suicide. As a healthcare provider, I urge the legislature to offer greater support to these young citizens to help ensure they survive their difficult teen years in order to grow into fully functioning, productive adults in our community.

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Wednesday, March 12, 2019 at 9am
Conference Room 229

RE: Support for HB 330 HD1 Relating to Suicide Prevention

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and distinguished committee members. My name is Kira Baptiste- Rapozo I am currently a BSW student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at U.H Manoa. I am testifying in strong support of HB 330 HD1 which appropriates funds to support youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties. I am born and raised on the island of Kauai and have seen and have felt the impacts suicide has had on the communities and families on Kauai. Kauai is a community of unity, each and every life lost to suicide affects the entire island. According to the State of Hawaii Department of Health youth suicide rates are significantly higher for all Neighbor Islands in comparison to the City and County of Honolulu. From 2012 to 2016, the overall age adjusted rate for youth suicide on Oahu was 66 suicides per 100,000. In Kauai County, the rate was 92 per 100,000, in Hawaii County 117 per 100,000. These numbers are alarming, appropriating funds to support youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education within the communities by implementing these preventives will help to save lives that are unnecessarily being taken. Historically, and currently, behavioral mental health continues to be stigmatized. Youths access to psychoeducation and suicide prevention services are vital to combat this complex public health epidemic.

Mahalo Nui for the opportunity to testify

Kira Li'ilani Baptiste- Rapozo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kira Li'ilani Baptiste- Rapozo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HB-330-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 3:18:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie DeMello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stephanie DeMello

531 Kaimake Loop

Kailua, HI, 96734

Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Chair Rosalyn Baker

Vice Chair Stanley Chang

Ways and Means

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

Tuesday March 11, 2019

Support for H.B. No. 330, Relating to Suicide Prevention

Hello, good afternoon committee members. My name is Stephanie DeMello and I am a masters student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am also a longtime childcare

worker on the Marine Corps Base of Hawaii. I strongly support H.B No. 330 relating to suicide prevention.

Youth suicide is devastating to families and communities and if it can be prevented it should. Educating our outer islands is important, with education comes change.

I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 330. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Stephanie DeMello

HB-330-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:48:17 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donovan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support this bill, suicide has become an epidemic in Hawaii. More education and community outreach are needed to secure the future of our citizens.

Mahalo,

Donovan Cabebe